



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR  
CITY OF CHICAGO

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**CITY COUNCIL APPROVES ORDINANCE TO LEASE VACANT LAND,  
CREATE OPEN SPACE IN THE SOUTH SHORE COMMUNITY**

*Fifteen Vacant Parcels of Land In The South Shore Community To Be Leased  
To Theaster Gates And The Rebuild Foundation*

City Council today approved an ordinance that was introduced by Mayor Rahm Emanuel to authorize the execution of a lease for fifteen vacant parcels of land in the South Shore Community to the Rebuild Foundation, pending the purchase of the property. The parcels are located at 6927-67 South Kenwood directly adjacent to the former ComEd building.

“Maximizing the use of vacant properties and turning them into positive spaces in the South Shore neighborhood will benefit all community residents,” said Mayor Emanuel. “This is an opportunity to bring new programming, art, and space to the neighborhood for community members to interact with one another.”

The former ComEd property, which is now the Dorchester Project, owned by Theaster Gates and the Rebuild Foundation, will be reimagined as a small theater, performing arts and meditative space. The City-owned lots would be turned into a more passive space, serving as a community garden with sculptures and open space.

Programming will include:

- Community Conversations
- Interactive Art
- Community Gardening/Gardening Classes
- Yoga/Meditation
- Artist collaboration space

The Rebuild Foundation has completed similar projects on the south side. Properties include Arts Incubator at 301 E. Garfield, Dorchester Arts + Housing Collaborative at 69th and Dante and other locations.

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